GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1159
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
POVERTY CAP
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Below Poverty Line (BPL) poverty cap has been placed at 46%;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the suggestions made by the States in this regard especially by Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) for states as well as for the country using data collected through Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The latest estimates of poverty have been released based on 61st round of the NSS for the year 2004-05. For 2004-05, the poverty at all India level is 37.2% for the country with 41.8% in rural areas and 25.7% in urban areas. The estimates of poverty will be revised from time to time based on the recommendation of experts.

It has been announced by the Joint Statement of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Union Minister of Rural Development, issued on 3rd October 2011, that the present State wise poverty estimates based on Planning Commission's methodology will not be used to impose any ceiling on the number of households to be included in different government programmes and schemes. Multiple dimensions of deprivations based on the indicators that are being collected through the on-going Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), 2011 would be taken into account for arriving at specific entitlements. By the time the SECC 2011 is completed, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Planning Commission will consult the States, Experts and Civil Society Organisations, and arrive at a consensus on the methodology to determine the eligibility and entitlements under various programmes / schemes.

The Planning Commission received reference from State Governments like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh expressing their reservations on the use of poverty estimates as cap for determining the eligibility and entitlements under various programmes/schemes. A reply was sent to them on the lines of Joint Statement of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Union Minister of Rural Development, issued on 3rd October 2011.